



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/078,521	02/21/2002	Luciano Mondani	25-335	4703

23117 7590 12/02/2004

NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC  
1100 N GLEBE ROAD  
8TH FLOOR  
ARLINGTON, VA 22201-4714

EXAMINER

FOX, CHARLES A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3652

DATE MAILED: 12/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/078,521

Applicant(s)

MONDANI ET AL

Examiner

Charles A. Fox

Art Unit

3652

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application-No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Abels et al. In regards to claim 1 Abels et al. 4,125,199 disclose a sideshift assembly for a forklift comprising:

a carriage comprising a pair of vertical members (101) that are horizontally spaced;

a frame support member (104) secured transversely to said vertical members;

wherein said vertical members are movably secured in the mast of said forklift;

a side shift frame comprising an upper cross member (105a), a lower cross member (105) and at least 2 side members (107);

said upper cross member having a lower contact surface for sliding engagement with said frame support member (104);

side shift operator means (122) for causing lateral movement of said frame, wherein said means is slidably received in a portion of said frame support member.

Regarding claim 14 Abels et al. disclose a side shift assembly for a forklift comprising:

a carriage comprising a pair of vertical members (101) that are horizontally spaced;

a frame support member (104) secured transversely to said vertical members;  
side shift operator means (122) for causing lateral movement of said frame, wherein said means is slidably received in a portion of said frame support member.

a side shift frame comprising an upper cross member (105a), a lower cross member (105) and at least 2 side members (107);

said upper cross member having a lower contact surface for sliding engagement with said frame support member (104);

wherein said upper member further comprises a planer front portion that protects the side shift operator means by preventing good carried by the forks to touch the front face (104a) of the support member which forms a portion of the side shift operator means.

In regards to claim 15 Abels et al. also discloses that the upper surface of the support member is convex and the lower surface of the upper cross member is concave, wherein said surfaces are slidably engaged with each other.

In regards to claims 16 and 17 Abels et al. further teach that said side shift frame is a quadrilateral shape with parallel side forming a rectangle.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the

Art Unit: 3652

subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abels et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Bolzoni. In regards to claims 2,4 and 7 Abels et al. teach the limitations of claim 1 as above, they also teach the device as having a fork position device, but not the particular fork positioner as in the instant application. Bolzoni DE 198 05 790 A1 teaches a fork positioner for a forklift truck, said positioner comprising:

first and second shoe members (14) adapted to slide horizontally along a sliding surface (33) of a side shift carriage;

each of said shoes adapted to receive a shank portion of a fork, said contact portion of said shoe being coplanar with a front face of a side shift frame;

said positioner adapted to move said shoes relative to each other such that the shoes are equidistant from the centerline of said side shift frame at all times. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention to provide the device taught by Abels et al. with a fork positioner as taught by Bolzoni in order to allow an operator to change the spacing of the forks from the operators seat while maintaining the operators view of the forks.

In regards to claim 3 Abels et al. further teach that said side shift frame is rectangular.

In regards to claim 5 Abels et al. also teach that the upper surface of the support member is convex and the lower surface of the upper cross member is concave, wherein said surfaces are slidably engaged with each other. See figure 12.

In regards to claim 6 Abels et al. also teaches said upper cross member defines a planer portion overhanging a front side of said support member.

Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abels et al. and Bolzoni as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of German patent 200 20 292 U1. Abels et al. and Bolzoni teach the limitations of claim 2 as above, they do not teach the side shift being driven by a pair of hydraulic cylinders. German patent '292 teaches a side shift carriage that uses two single action cylinder to move a side shift frame in one of two direction depending upon which cylinder is engaged, wherein each of the cylinders are sealed to prevent the escape of hydraulic fluid around the piston. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention to provide the device taught by Abels et al. and Bolzoni with the cylinders as taught by the German '292 patent in order to simplify the hydraulic system by using single action cylinders to move the side shift frame.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abels et al., Bolzoni and German '292 as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of French Patent 76 02832. Abels et al., Bolzoni and German '292 teach the limitations of claim 8 as above, they do not teach pads between the cylinders and the frame. French patent '832 teaches placing piston pads between a hydraulic cylinder and a side shift frame member. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of

Art Unit: 3652

invention to provide the device taught by Abels et al., Bolzoni and German '292 with piston pads as taught by French patent '832 to spread the load applied to the frame over a larger area.

Claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abels et al., Bolzoni and German '292 as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of Sorlie. In regards to claim 11 Abels et al., Bolzoni and German '292 teach the limitations of claim 8 as above, Bolzoni further teaches the forks are maintained an equidistant length from the center line of the side shift carriage. They do not teach any particular type of drive system for the fork positioner. Sorlie US 5,190,436 teaches using hydraulic cylinders to position forks within a side shift frame. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention to provide the device taught by Abels et al., Bolzoni and German '292 with the hydraulic cylinder taught by Sorlie in order to drive the fork positioner using a well known drive means as suggested by Bolzoni.

In regards to claims 12 and 13 Bolzoni further teaches that said center fork positioner is comprised of an upper chain and a lower chain forming a chain loop, wherein said chain loop is used to move said first and second shoes at the same time.

Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abels et al. as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of German patent 200 20 292 U1. Abels et al. teach the limitations of claim 16 as above, they do not teach the side shift being driven by a pair of hydraulic cylinders. German patent '292 teaches a side shift carriage that uses two single action cylinder to move a

Art Unit: 3652

side shift frame in one of two direction depending upon which cylinder is engaged, wherein each of the cylinders are sealed to prevent the escape of hydraulic fluid around the piston. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention to provide the device taught by Abels et al. with the cylinders as taught by the German '292 patent in order to simplify the hydraulic system by using single action cylinders to move the side shift frame.

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abels et al. and German '292 as applied to claim 18 above, and further in view of French Patent 76 02832. Abels et al. and German '292 teach the limitations of claim 18 as above, they do not teach pads between the cylinders and the frame. French patent '832 teaches placing piston pads between a hydraulic cylinder and a side shift frame member. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention to provide the device taught by Abels et al. and German '292 with piston pads as taught by French patent '832 to spread the load applied to the frame over a larger area.

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bostad et al. in view of Bolzoni. Bostad et al. teach a sideshift assembly for a forklift comprising:

- a carriage comprising a pair of vertical members (16) that are horizontally spaced;

- a frame support member (33) secured transversely to said vertical members;

- wherein said vertical members are movably secured in the mast of said forklift;



a side shift frame comprising an upper cross member (34), a lower cross member (28) and at least 2 side members (30,32);

said upper cross member having a lower contact surface for sliding engagement with said frame support member (33);

side shift operator means (52) for causing lateral movement of said frame, wherein said means is located in a portion of said frame support member. They do not teach the device as having a fork position device. Bolzoni teaches a fork positioner for a forklift truck, said positioner comprising:

first and second shoe members (14) adapted to slide horizontally along a sliding surface (33) of a side shift carriage;

each of said shoes adapted to receive a shank portion of a fork, said contact portion of said shoe being coplanar with a front face of a side shift frame;

said positioner adapted to move said shoes relative to each other such that the shoes are equidistant from the centerline of said side shift frame at all times. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention to provide the device taught by Bostad et al. with a fork positioner as taught by Bolzoni in order to allow an operator to change the spacing of the forks from the operators seat while maintaining the operators view of the forks.

### ***Response to Amendment***

The amendments filed on August 26, 2004 have been entered into the record.

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-13 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's arguments filed August 26, 2004, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim 14 under 103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Abels et al.

Applicant's arguments filed August 26, 2004 regarding claim 21 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The fork positioner in the instant application has no range of motions given. While the range of motions of the fork positioner taught by Bostad and Bolzoni would be limited to motion within members (31) of the Bostad reference this still meets the limitations of the claim. As the fork positioner taught by Bolzoni is easily combinable with the side shift carriage taught by Bostad the rejection is maintained as before. Lastly a portion of the side shift operator taught by Bostad is located within a portion of the support frame.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles A. Fox whose telephone number is 703-605-4294. The examiner can normally be reached between 7:00-5:00 Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen D. Lillis can be reached at 703-308-3248. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3652

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CAF

CAF

11-27-04



EILEEN D. LILLIS  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600